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F-6451

United States
Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

The Friday Letter

MAR 31 '88

Vol 8 No. 2

January 22, 1988

Bode Addresses State Child Nutrition Directors Meeting

Assistant Secretary John W. Bode addressed state child nutrition directors at their biennial meeting in San Diego recently. In addition to speaking at the opening general session, Bode also took part in a session called "Questions and Answers with USDA." At the speakers table were: (left to right) Maria Balakshin, California's state director; Hicks Elmore, administrator, Western Region; George Braley, deputy administrator, Special Nutrition Programs; Jane Wynn, ASFSA president; and Vivian Pilant, South Carolina state director.



State child nutrition directors or their representatives from nearly every state, staff from regional and national FNS offices, local and state school food service staff, and others interested in child nutrition issues were offered 15 separate workshops covering a variety of management topics and issues.

While in San Diego, Assistant Secretary Bode (left) accompanied by San Diego

County Workfare Program Manager Tom Walters (center), took time from the conference to visit the San Diego Workfare Program. At a job club site he talked with a student (seated) about her training and preparation for employment. Later Bode visited a county workfare site where he met with staff and a workfare participant. The Assistant Secretary also met with the editorial board of the San Diego Tribune.



-Story and Photos by
WRO Public Affairs Staff

New Denver OIC Named

Irene Wise was selected officer-in-charge of the Denver Field Office effective December 6, capping a field operations career that began at the secretarial level.

A native Kansan, she worked for the Department of Defense in Texas prior to moving to Wichita, Kansas, where she spent several years with the Internal

(OIC Continued Page 3)

Mini Grants Extend Classroom Nutrition Education

The Special Nutrition Program staff in the Mountain Plains Region decided to stretch a limited Nutrition Education and Training Program (NETP) budget for Colorado's private schools and residential child care institutions (RCCI) by offering mini grants. Their goals included promoting use of nutrition education materials and curricula in classroom activities; integrating food service operations into the classroom; providing educational opportunities for food service staffs; and increasing student awareness of the relationship between nutrition, good eating habits, and overall health.

MPRO invited 62 Colorado private schools and RCCIs to submit proposals if they wanted one of eight \$300 mini grants for individual NETP projects. Fourteen applications and plans were received, evaluated, and ranked. Six Denver area institutions, one in Sterling, and one in Colorado Springs emerged as top choices. Their projects include a study of regional and ethnic foods and their relationship to the food groups; nutrition education for teenage parents; efforts to improve eating habits of limited-income, educationally disadvantaged students; creation of a cookbook to be taken home; a food fair featuring fruits and vegetables from the cultures represented within the school; a special meal for grandparents; and field trips to teach shopping and food choice skills.

-Story by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Dietary Fiber

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Exercise Classes to Begin

It is time to begin another 10-week session of exercise classes. Sessions are 30 minutes and meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Classes are designed to condition and tone muscles with little or no sweat (no showers available) and will begin on Tuesday, February 2. Sessions will be held on the Plaza Level in the room formerly used as the Center Club sales office until conference rooms become available. To register, contact Vicky Urcuyo at 756-3057, Room 1113. The charge for the 10 weeks is \$30 and is due by January 29. Cash please.

FOSE Comes to FNS

New computer equipment started to arrive in late December and installation has begun. Most of the installation will be completed sometime in February. In addition, to keep the user community up to date on the latest CHAMP happenings, the End User Services Branch is preparing a one-page bulletin called CHAMP CHAT. Two editions of this bulletin have already been distributed to employees.

Several months ago, the End User Services Branch of the Information Resources Management Division sponsored a Federal Office System Exposition (FOSE) in the Park Office Center Building. The purpose was for fellow employees to see first-hand some of the equipment that had been purchased under the CHAMP contract.

The WYSE microcomputer workstation Type I and II, the Hewlett Packard laser printer, and SuperCalc4 were the star attractions.

Other vendors featured the latest in desktop publishing, graphics, training, hard disk cards, and electronic copy boards.

-Story by End User Services Branch

SERO Forms "\$6 Million Club"

In the Southeast Region's eight-state area, there are more than 700 counties operating the Food Stamp Program. However, through data analysis, SERO's Family Nutrition Programs staff has determined that just 63 of these counties account for roughly half of the food stamps issued in the region and are also responsible for about half of the region's quality control errors.

Based on this information, SERO staff has launched a yearlong initiative to improve food stamp payment accuracy in those 63 counties. The initiative, called the "\$6 Million Club" because all of the counties issue in excess of \$6 million in food stamps per year, will provide intensive technical assistance to the counties and develop individualized quality improvement plans for each one. All eight welfare commissioners in the Southeast have pledged their support to the project and have named state coordinators to work with the regional office's coordinator.



Art Trotter (left) has been named SERO's "\$6 million dollar man" as coordinator of the "\$6 Million Club" initiative. Trotter is shown with Deputy Regional Administrator Arvid Dopson at the first meeting with state coordinators.

-Story and Photo by
SERO Public Affairs Staff

(OIC Continued From Page 1)



Revenue Service. In February 1977, Wise joined FNS as a secretary in the Wichita Field Office.

Later in 1977, Wise moved to the Denver area and became secretary of the Lakewood Field Office. When a vacancy opened up in October 1978, she became a food program specialist. She continued to advance when the Lakewood Office was moved to Denver. Upon the departure of former Denver OIC Toni Young, Wise became acting OIC.

Mother of three grown daughters and one son, and grandmother of two boys and a girl, Wise stays active in many ways. She's an avid fan of the Denver Broncos, enjoys yard work, and spends two nights a week tutoring near-illiterate students as part of the Denver metro area's literacy program.

Wise is also working toward a degree in public administration at Metropolitan State College. Nearly through her second year now, she finds the challenge both stimulating and rewarding.

-Story by Joanne Widner
Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk-Stay in School	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	None	FNS
o Secretary/Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open Continuous	88-999	FNS
o Supvry Nutritionist	(FNS-N)	GM-630	13	01/29/88	88-2	NTSD
o Prog Analysis Ofcr	(A)	GM-345	15	02/01/88	88-3	OAE
o Food Program Speclst	(W)	GS-120	11/12	02/01/88	88-4A	SFPD
o Food Program Speclst	(FNS-H)	GS-120	11/12	02/01/88	88-4	SFPD
o Food Program Speclst	(FNS-H) (Potential to GS-11)	GS-120	9	01/27/88	88-5	FDD
o Food Program Speclst	(A) (Potential to GS-11)	GM-120	7/9	02/16/88	88-(6,6A,6B)	PAD
o Assoc Administrator	(A)	GM-601,630	15	02/29/88	88-H-1	HNIS
o Nutritionist	(A) (Potential to GS-11)	GS-630	7/9	02/09/88	88-H-2	HNIS
*o Food Program Speclst	(FNS-N)	GS-120	11/12	02/09/88	87-159	SFPD

*Reannounced to extend the area of consideration

FDD	- Food Distribution Division
FNS	- Food and Nutrition Service
HNIS	- Human Nutrition Information Service
OAE	- Office of Analysis & Evaluation
NTSD	- Nutrition & Technical Services Division
PAD	- Program Accountability Division
SFPD	- Supplemental Food Program Division

Area of Consideration

(L)	- Local Commuting Area
(FNS-H)	- FNS Headquarters
(A)	- All Sources
(FNS-N)	- FNS Nationwide
(W)	- Washington Metro Area

Linda L. Boling
Editor, Public Information Staff

The Friday Letter is published every 2 weeks by the Public Information Staff of the Food and Nutrition Service. To update mailing address, or to alter number of copies received, please mail changes to the FNS Public Information Staff, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 823, Alexandria, VA 22302, telephone no. 756-3284.